

The Ghost and Molly McGee

"The Turtle Writer of Knell"
(formerly "The Writer of Knell")

525B-303

SCRIPT

Written by:
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DISNEY TELEVISION ANIMATION

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCCEE
"The Turtle Writer of Knell"
525B-303

CAST REPORT

<u>Character</u>	<u>Total Dialogues</u>
MOLLY	23
LIBBY	22
SCRATCH	19
LADY LIBBITHA	12
GLORIA	3
ABIGAIL	3
DARRYL	3
GOBLIN	3
JOLLY THE JESTER	3
NASHUA	2
MR. PHAM	2
MOM	2
DAD	2
GRANDMA NIN	1

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE
"THE TURTLE WRITER OF KNELL"
525B-303 - **Final** Draft
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INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

LIBBY (in READING GLASSES) stands at a PODIUM, reading from a SELF-PRINTED BOOK. A BANNER hangs over her reading: *THE TURTLE RIDERS OF KNELL! AUTHOR READING TODAY!*

*
*

1 LIBBY

...and so, Lady Libbitha saved the Kingdom of Knell from the goblin horde. But had she lost her faithful battle turtle forever?
Only time would tell...

*

Libby sheds her glasses, striking an "authorly" pose. REVEAL a large "author photo" of her in the same pose beside her.

*
*

2 LIBBY (CONT'D)

Thank you all for coming to **the first public** reading of *The Turtle Riders of Knell!*

*
*

As Libby steps away from the dais, a long line of people wait with books in hand.

*

3 GLORIA

I **love** Lady Libbitha! Will you sign my copy?! Make it out to **Gloria!**

*
*

4 LIBBY

(signing; chuckles)

I know your name Gloria. We've been in the same class since we were five.

*
*
*
*

5 GLORIA

So when's the **sequel** coming out?!

*

6 LIBBY

I... just finished *this* one. I haven't **even** started thinking about-

*
*
*

A crowd forms around Libby, inches from her.

*

7 MR. PHAM

You know what this series needs? A robot revolution!

*

8 **LIBBY**
 It's a medieval fantasy soooo--

Abigail is now suddenly very close to Libby's face.

9 **ABIGAIL**
 You do have a romance planned,
 right? Maybe a love triangle? Love
 square? Pentagon?! DODECAGON?!

She puts on a SEA CAPTAIN'S HAT and reels Libby in.

10 **ABIGAIL (CONT'D)**
 I must ship!

11 **NASHUA**
 Every moment without a new Dragons
 of Knell is SUFFERING. DO NOT.
 MAKE. US. WAIT.

As the crowd closes in, Libby starts to sweat.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Molly is with Libby and Scratch, near the VENDING MACHINE.

12 **MOLLY**
 Libby! *The Turtle Riders of Knell*
 is a hit! Everybody's going nuts
 for it!

13 **SCRATCH**
 (re: vending machine)
 Nuts! Good thinking.

He floats into the vending machine and eats a BAG OF NUTS.

14 **LIBBY**
 That's the problem! They all want
 another story, but I'm tapped out
 of ideas! Literary fame is a
 blessing... and a curse!

Scratch floats out of the dispenser flap with the empty bag
 of nuts. Libby grabs it and uses the bag to <BREATHE>.

15 **MOLLY**
 Libby, you've got plenty of ideas
 kicking around that talented head
 of yours! All you need is a nice,
 quiet place to focus.

16 **LIBBY**

I guess a writer's retreat in my
emergency bunker wouldn't hurt...

*

17 **SCRATCH**

(re: bag of nuts)

Are you done with that? I want to
lick the nut dust at the bottom.

*

*

*

*

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - LATER

Libby types "TURTLE RIDERS OF KNELL, PART 2: ASSAULT ON THE GOBLIN HORDE" on her TYPEWRITER. Molly "air knocks" then comes in with a BASKET. Scratch follows.

18 **MOLLY**

Knock knock! Before you bunker
down, I brought you some brain
food.

*

Molly searches the basket, coming up empty.

*

19 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)

(accusingly)

Scraaatch?

Scratch licks his fingers, crumbs all over his face.

20 **SCRATCH**

The food was gonna be a
distraction. It's better this way.

*

Libby ushers Molly and Scratch toward the door.

*

21 **LIBBY**

Really appreciate it, but **you two**
need to--

*

*

Molly lingers, not getting the hint to leave.

22 **MOLLY**

Ooooh a typewriter. How retro!

*

*

23 **LIBBY**

The clacking of the keys soothes
me. **But you've got to go before--**

*

*

*

The door <SLAMS> shut. A timer <BEEPS>.

*

24 **LIBBY** (CONT'D)

That... I set a 24-hour time lock,
so I would be forced to write.

*

*

Molly tugs at the door, lightly at first, then with effort. *

25 **MOLLY**

Who knew reinforced steel could be
so stubborn?

Molly sweats with the effort, and she continues to <STRAIN.> *

26 **LIBBY**

It's no use, Molly. We're trapped. *

27 **SCRATCH**

<GASP> Trapped? No! I had so many
hopes, dreams, buffets to haunt--
(then, normal)
JK I'm a ghost, see ya suckahs!

Scratch floats in and out a couple times to taunt them, then
exits. Molly cups her hands, yelling. *

28 **MOLLY**

Don't eat my hidden stash of
Halloween candy! *

29 **SCRATCH (O.S.)**

It's as good as gone! *

Molly and Libby are alone. *

30 **MOLLY**

Libby, I'm sorry, but you won't
even know I'm here! I'll be like a
supportive ninja! *

31 **LIBBY**

This is fine. I can still get my
writing done. *

Libby raises her hands, speaking to them. *

32 **LIBBY (CONT'D)**

Okay, ladies. Let's make magic. *

Libby at her typewriter as we go into the world of Knell... *

EXT. BATTLE ARENA / EXT. PIRATE DECK / EXT. LUTE-SHAPED CAR *

Libby (in TURTLE-ARMOR) pops into a BATTLE ARENA. *

33 **LADY LIBBITHA**

Time for me, the valiant Lady
Libbitha to... uh...
(MORE)

LADY LIBBITHA (CONT'D)
 fight for my life in the... battle
 nexus...? No... I'll take to the
 high seas!

Lady Libbitha pops onto a PIRATE SHIP. Her face turns green.

34 **LADY LIBBITHA (CONT'D)**
 <GAGGING> Fictional sea sickness! A
 land journey would be better.
 Perhaps in a lute-shaped minivan...

Lady Libbitha pops into the LUTE-SHAPED CAR. HUGE CHUNKS OF FOOD fall from the sky, bouncing off the car.

35 **MOLLY (V.O.)**
 (mouthful)
 A lute-shaped minivan? Doesn't seem like the aesthetic of the world you've built...

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Molly reads over Libby's shoulder, chewing on some EMERGENCY RATIONS. Flecks sprinkle in Libby's hair.

36 **LIBBY**
 Hey, Moll? Hard to think with freeze-dried salami crumbs dropping on me like hail stones.

Molly <SWALLOWS> and preens crumbs from Libby's hair.

37 **MOLLY**
 It's actually freeze-dried pepperoni-flavored tempeh! I was skeptical, but y'know what, it's tasty! Well done--
 (looks at package)
 "Nature's Bomb Shelter Rations!"
 (backing away)
 Anyway, I can already tell this book is going to be phenomenal!
 Amazing! Phenomazing! Okay, I'll get out of your hair! Ha! Feel free to use that pun in your book!

Libby gives a weak smile.

INT. SCRATCH'S DOLLHOUSE - DAY

Scratch settles into a warm bath.

38 SCRATCH

Well Scratchy ol' boy, you got a
warm bath, a jade roller, a Rub-a-
Dub-Tub-Tome--

Scratch holds up a WATERPROOF NOVEL. He drops it in and then
shakes the water off, unfazed.

39 SCRATCH (CONT'D)

--and the entire day to yourself.
Enjoy this.

CLOCK WIPE: Scratch is shriveled up like a prune. He twists
his whole body, wringing out the water.

40 SCRATCH (CONT'D)

Wow. Longest I've soaked without
someone dragging me away to clean
up a park or scrub old people or
some other enhappifying thing.
Welp, Molly's gotta back by now!

Scratch checks a CLOCK. His face falls.

41 SCRATCH (CONT'D)

It's only been eight minutes?!
Burning clock's gonna be harder
than I thought. Maybe there's an
old person I can scrub...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. NIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scratch, holding a WIRE BRUSH, smiles weakly at glaring NIN.

42 GRANDMA NIN

No!

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - LIBBY'S BUNKER - DAY

IN A QUICK SERIES OF JUMP CUTS: Libby types in different
positions at her typewriter, she paces, she snacks on the
emergency rations, she reads, she plays her BANDONEON;
finally, she gets back to her typewriter, slowly pecking.

EXT. BRIGHTON WOODS - DAY

Lady Libbitha pops into the woods.

43 **LADY LIBBITHA**
 What I need to jumpstart this story
 is a new, compelling character!

Gloria (IN FANTASY GARB) pops up from behind a stump.

44 **LADY LIBBITHA (CONT'D)**
 Gloria? What are you doing here?

45 **GLORIA**
 Just wanted to see how the book is
 coming along!
 (disappointed)
 Is this... it?

Then Mr. Pham (DRESSED AS A ROBOT), Abigail (A RANGER), and Nashua (A BARD) emerge from the trees.

46 **MR. PHAM**
 Did I hear someone needs a new
 character? Because I got one right
 here! Beep beep beep!

Mr. Pham does some robot dance moves and <ROBOT NOISES>.

47 **ABIGAIL**
 Don't be a fool -- robots can't
 fall in love! And I need romance!

48 **NASHUA**
 Don't ruin this for us! WE HAVE
 HIGH AND UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS!

Nashua shakes her, causing her armor to <RATTLE and SQUEAK>.

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - LIBBY'S BUNKER - SAME

Molly bounces on the BUNKER BED, squeaking like Libbitha's armor. Libby looks over, confused.

49 **LIBBY**
 Molly?

50 **MOLLY**
 (bouncing/breathless)
 Just burning off excess energy!
 Can't wait to read the next
 incredicool chapter! That's another
 word I came up with to describe
 your--WHOA WHOA WHOA!

Molly does a big jump, which triggers the spikes! Libby rushes over and catches Molly before she lands on the spikes.

51 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)
Forgot it does that...

*
*

INT. MCGEE HOME - DARRYL'S ROOM - DAY

Darryl starts out the door when Scratch bumps into him.

52 **SCRATCH**
Darryl! My man. My dude. My bro.

*

53 **DARRYL**
Molly's gone isn't she?

54 **SCRATCH**
Whaaaaat? I can't just wanna hang
out with my favorite McGee for no
reason? Let's get into some classic
Scratch and Darryl shenanigans!
Waddya say?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

55 **DARRYL**
Wish I could, but I got some fires
to put out. Our last shenanans took a
dark... dark turn.

*
*
*

The world warps as we ZOOM into Darryl's PTSD eyes and hear
distant <JUNGLE NOISES.> Darryl <SHUDDERS.>

*

56 **SCRATCH**
Let me help! I'll be your backup!

Scratch does a bunch of cool-guy, *Miami Vice*-esque poses.

57 **DARRYL**
Sorry. This involves a rare breed
of sea lion, and you know how they
get around ghosts.

58 **SCRATCH**
Don't remind me.

The world warps as we ZOOM into Scratch's PTSD eyes and hear
distant <SEA LION BARKS.> Scratch <SHUDDERS.>

*

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - LIBBY'S BUNKER - DAY

Libby at her typewriter, pounding on her temples.

59 **LIBBY**
Come on, Libby. Think! Everyone is
counting on you!

EXT. BRIGHTON WOODS - DAY

Lady Libbitha sits on a stump, rubbing her chin.

60 **LADY LIBBITHA**

Last time, the goblins stole my
faithful turtle. Sooo... I should
duel a goblin to win her back!

*
*
*
*

A GOBLIN pops in, looks around to see who Libbitha is addressing, then points to herself, confused.

61 **LADY LIBBITHA (CONT'D)**

Yeah! You! We should... duel?

The goblin <SHRUGS,> raises a CLUB, while Lady Libbitha unsheathes her SWORD. Then the goblin lowers the club.

*
*

62 **GOBLIN**

Wait, wait, wait. Didn't we do this
in the last book? You know just
before I stole your battle turtle?

*

63 **LADY LIBBITHA**

Nonono, this is different, because
last time... you had an axe?

*
*
*

64 **GOBLIN**

One story, and you're already out
of ideas? Eesh. Not a good look.

*

65 **LADY LIBBITHA**

Hey! I created you! Don't make me
write you out of existence!

*

66 **GOBLIN**

If you're going to give me no
character development, you might as
well...

*

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Libby tears out the page and crumples it.

*

67 **LIBBY**

Oh, character development?! Let's
see how you like this development --
You're out of the book!

*
*
*
*

<FLASH!> Libby covers her eyes, blinded. Molly is snapping pictures of Libby with her PHONE.

*

68 **MOLLY**

Don't mind me! Just grabbing some behind-the-scenes for your book's social media campaign.

(whispering)

They're supposed to be candid, so look off dreamily into the distance!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Libby looks confused. <FLASH!>

*

69 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)

Eh, close enough.

Molly wanders, holding her phone up, trying to find a signal.

70 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)

Now to upload these to the fan forums. I don't need to tell you how starved they are for fresh content! Just need a signal...

*
*

Molly climbs all over Libby, waving her phone.

71 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)

I got a bar! I got a bar! Oh wait, no. Give me a second...

Libby grits her teeth as Molly steps all over her face.

INT. MCGEE HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MOM and DAD snuggle on the couch with a BLANKET and POPCORN.

72 **MOM**

I can't remember the last time we had a quiet evening alone together.

73 **DAD**

April 3rd, 2019. Marked it on my calendar.

*
*
*

Scratch pops in, squeezing uncomfortably in-between them.

74 **SCRATCH**

Oboy! Movie night! So what are we watchin'? A documentary? Snore! Let's check out --

*
*
*
*

Scratch swipes the REMOTE from Mom and clicks.

*

75 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
Country Pumpkin V: Next of PumpKIN!
 Okay I'm spoiling the ending here:
 The hero and villain are *siblings*--

Scratch swipes the POPCORN BOWL from Dad, shoves it into his mouth, and <LAUGHS> too loudly. Mom swipes the remote back. *

76 **MOM**
 Scratch, this was supposed to be kind of a *date* night situation.

Scratch takes the remote again and channel surfs.

77 **SCRATCH**
 In that case, may I suggest the *Country Pumpkin* romance special,
Can't Squash This Feeling.

Mom and Dad both glare at Scratch. Scratch floats up, upending the popcorn bowl.

78 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 Capital W - WOW. Fine! There are plenty of other people who want to hang out with me.

Scratch exits. Dad looks to Mom.

79 **DAD**
 Could... we watch *Country Pumpkin* instead of the documentary?

Mom sighs and hands the remote to Dad.

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Libby, head in her hands, is at her typewriter. She watches as Molly <SLEEP-MUMBLES> in the bunker bed.

80 **MOLLY**
 Phenomazing. Incredicool.
 Fantasmariific...

Libby looks at her CLOCK, it's midnight. We go into our--

SONGBURST: "THE FIGHT TO WRITE" a la Billy Joel's "PRESSURE."
Libby goes on a trippy, fever dream in her fantasy world.

-- Mr. Pham, Gloria, Abigail, and Nashua (with TORCHES and PITCHFORKS) chase Lady Libbitha through the woods -- they want the book NOW... and it better be GOOD!

-- *Scratch chases GEOFF, JEFF, SHARKIE, the GHOST COUNCIL, CHURRO GUY, etc, desperate to hang out with them. Juxtaposed with the mob chasing Libby, we see Scratch chasing a mob.*

-- *Libbitha thinks she's found safety! It's Molly! However, Molly is the leader of the fan mob! They menacingly chant, "Fantasmariffic! Phenomazing!" Libby trips and falls. They close in as she screams! END SONGBURST.*

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - MORNING

Molly gingerly approaches Libby at the typewriter. Libby's hair covers her face.

81 **MOLLY**

Libby? Have you been up all night?

Molly parts Libby's messy hair like opening curtains. Libby's eyes are bloodshot, bags under her eyes. Molly antics. *

82 **LIBBY**

YES! And everything I've written is
GAR-BAGE!

Libby gestures over to a pile of crumpled up paper as high as the ceiling. Libby's lip trembles. The dam is breaking. *

83 **MOLLY**

Oh no! Don't sad lip! There's still plenty of time for you to write an extra-stupendinary story. That's stupendous and extraordinary combined--

84 **LIBBY**

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, MOLLY! (then)
I know you're trying to be supportive, but every time you say the book is going to be extra-stupendinary, or fantasmariffic, or phenomazing, it's just another reminder that everyone expects a masterpiece that I CAN'T DELIVER!

Libby dumps out a bag of emergency rations, using it to breathe. Molly pats Libby on the back, comforting her.

85 **MOLLY**

I had no idea you were feeling so much pressure...

Libby balls up the bag and chuck it.

86 **LIBBY**

Everyone's expectations are so
high, writing isn't even fun
anymore!

*
*
*

A BEAT... then Molly guides Libby back to the typewriter.

*

87 **MOLLY**

Then forget about **expectations**. We
all liked *The Turtle Riders of*
Knell because you liked it. Write
something that makes you happy, and
everyone else will like it, too.

*
*

Libby takes a long look at Molly and smiles.

88 **LIBBY**

It's worth a shot! (then) Can you
pat me on the back one more time?

*
*
*

Molly gives Libby another gentle pat-pat. Libby sips a CUP OF
TEA... Then she furiously types up a whirlwind! Pages fly off
the typewriter. Molly races to catch them in the air.

*
***EXT. BRIGHTON WOODS - DAY**

Lady Libbitha kneels behind a rock, consulting her MAP.

89 **LADY LIBBITHA**

The goblin camp is up ahead. To
rescue my trusty turtle will
require cunning, **bravery** and--

*

90 **JOLLY THE JESTER (O.S.)**

STEALTH!

*
*

Lady Libbitha antics. JOLLY THE JESTER (**MOLLY IN JESTER GARB**) cartwheels in, bells <JANGLING>, then bows.

*

91 **JOLLY THE JESTER (CONT'D)**

Jolly the Jester at your service.
Ooh! Is **that** the camp? Let me get a
better vantage point!

*
*

Jolly clammers up Libbitha's shoulders.

*

92 **LADY LIBBITHA**

Shh, Jolly! You're going to alert
the--

*
*

Goblins pop up, surrounding Libbitha and Jolly!

93 **LADY LIBBITHA** (CONT'D)
The Goblin hordes...

*
*

94 **JOLLY THE JESTER**
This is a whoopsie on me, isn't it?

*
*

95 **LADY LIBBITHA**
Yep, Jolly. This is all thanks to
you. HAVE AT THEE, GOBLINS!

*
*
*

Libbitha raises her sword up high in the air. **MATCH CUT TO:**

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - BASEMENT - MORNING

Libby holds the pages of her manuscript in the air!

96 **LIBBY**
I did it! I finally did it! I have
in my hand... words on the page!
Thanks for helping me get out of my
head, Molly.

The bunker door swings open. Libby rushes out.

97 **MOLLY**
That's just a rough draft, right?
Are you open to some changes? For
example, maybe softening the well-
meaning sidekick... aaand you're
gone.

Scratch slams into Molly, wrapping her in a big hug.

98 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)
Oh hey buddy, did you miss me?

99 **SCRATCH**
What? No!

A single tear rolls down Scratch's cheek.

100 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
But uh, maybe don't leave me alone
ever again?

THE END.